Release date: July 31, 1996
For more information contact: Mike Berriochoa, (509) 376-5742, m_v_mike_berriochoa@rl.gov

WHC

CONSTRUCTION STARTED ON NEW WASTE TRANSFER LINE

Construction is underway on a new transfer system that will play a major role in the disposal of 55 million gallons of highly radioactive waste stored on the U.S. Department of Energy's Hanford Site.

The system consists of two separate pipelines, pumping stations and supporting infrastructure. It will connect waste storage tanks in one area of the site with additional storage tanks and future disposal facilities to be built more than six miles away. It is Hanford's first transfer system to comply with all environmental regulations linking the two locations and is high on the list of priorities of the Washington State Department of Ecology.

"The new system demonstrates continued progress toward our commitment to dispose of the highly radioactive tank waste. It will meet our immediate need to transfer waste from our old single-shell storage tanks to safer double-shell tanks. It will also enable us to retrieve and dispose of the waste with a high degree of certainty that we can protect the environment," said Jackson Kinzer, assistant manager, Office of Tank Waste Remediation System for the Department of Energy's Richland Operations office.

The new system includes two parallel pipelines. Each line is actually a pipe-within-a-pipe to prevent leaking waste to the surrounding soil. One of the lines will handle liquid waste while the other will be big enough to carry liquid and solid waste mixtures known as slurries. Unlike the older system, the new pipes can be flushed to prevent clogging. Other features include low-maintenance pumps, automatic valves, remote controls and monitoring, plus continuous leak detection.

The system is being built in three stages. Most of the piping is being installed by Apollo, Inc. of Kennewick under a $9.8 million contract. George Grant Construction Company of Richland is installing the pump stations and other support structures under a $2.8 million contract. Connecting the lines inside the tank farms is to be done by ICF Kaiser Hanford Company which provides engineering, construction management and base operations services on the Hanford Site.

"We will soon have a reliable, modern waste transfer system which is essential to safely manage the waste stored in our tanks," said Roger Bacon, vice-president and manager of Tank Waste Remediation System for Westinghouse Hanford Company. Westinghouse is the management and operations contractor on the 560-square-mile Hanford Site north of Richland and is responsible for the safe storage and management of Hanford's highly radioactive waste.

The existing transfer system, made up of six individual pipelines, is more than 40 years old and is well beyond its designed life. Four of the lines have failed and the two remaining, while sound, do not meet current environmental regulations.

In addition to supporting transfer of tank waste, the new line will support operations and cleanout of the Plutonium Finishing Plant, the 222S Laboratory where high-level waste samples are analyzed and T Plant, which is Hanford's original World War II plutonium processing plant. It will also support final

retrieval of waste from single-shell tanks and double-shell tanks for disposal.

The system is to be completed in August 1997 with operations beginning in February 1998.

# # #

9606-014.TWR

[Hanford Home Page] [Press Index]

For questions or comments about this page, please send email to yvonne_t_sherman@rl.gov
The URL for this page is http://www.hanford.gov/press/1996/014-twr.htm